

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00731 201453Z

50/43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 OES-03 FEAE-00 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OPIC-03 (ISO) W

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R 191130Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL Leningrad

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR LAST LINE PARA #3)

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, UR, US

SUBJ: Leningrad PROPAGANDIST'S REMARKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS
AND MIDDLE EAST

REF: Leningrad

730 NOTAL; Leningrad 0729 NOTAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: US-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE SAID TO BE
DOING WELL ENOUGH IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE VIETNAM EVENTS.
BUT THE US IS SAID TO HAVE SUFFERED GREAT SETBACKS
IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST.
END SUMMARY.

2. A ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDGE) SOVIET PROPAGANDIST COMMENTED
ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AS PART OF HIS PREPARED REMARKS
AT A SUNDAY, MAY 18, REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.
PROPAGANDIST WAS LECTURE CIRCUIT PRO MIKHAIL DMITRIYEVICH
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SOLOV'YEV. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS ON

US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND MIDDLE EAST.

3. SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED ONE SIDE AND US THE OTHER IN VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE. NOW THAT WAR HAS ENDED, RELATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. CURRENT EXAMPLES ARE STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS; WIDENING OF CONTACTS, EG EXCHANGE OF NAVAL SHIP VISITS WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND SHOWED MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP; CULTURAL TIES, EG MAY 22 OPENING OF METROPOLITAN MUSEUM EXHIBIT IN LENINGRAD AND SOVIET EXHIBIT FROM HERMITAGE MUSEUM IN US; AND BUSINESS AND TRADE. GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH KISSINGER IN VIENNA WILL BE IMPORTANT. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, AMERICAN PRESS SEEKING TO PUT STORM CLOUDS OVER MEETING BY SENSATIONALIZING GROMYKO'S REMARKS IN HIS SPEECH ON OCCASION OF 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW PACT.

4. AS A SWISS PAPER RECENTLY OBSERVED, EVERYTHING HAS ITS END AND AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY DID NOT GET WHAT IT WANTED. INDOCHINA IS NOT ONLY AREA WHERE US HAS SUFFERED GREAT SETBACKS. OTHERS ARE IN GREECE, TURKEY, CYPRUS, AND FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. POWER OF US IS DECREASING IN TERMS OF POLITICAL SUPREMACY, ECONOMY, AND DEGREE OF TRUST--THIS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF COMMENTARY IN US PRESS.

5. VICTORY IN INDOCHINA ALSO ILLUSTRATES ENTIRE COURSE OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. CERTAIN CIRCLES IN ISRAEL AND US SEEK TO OPPOSE REGULARIZATION OF AREA, BUT ARAB SUCCESES IN OCTOBER WAR, NEW CHARACTER OF POLITICAL SITUATION, POWERFUL WEAPONS OF OIL AND MONEY, AND FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION IN ME, ARE POINTING TO CORRECTNESS OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. REGARDING KISSINGER'S MISSION, IT HAD SEVERAL OBJECTIVES:
A) TO SHOW ARABS AND ENTIRE WORLD THAT KEY TO SOLUTION IN ME LAY SOLELY WITH US, B) TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF US IN ME, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ENERGY CRISIS;
C) TO SLOW PROGRESSIVE TENDENCIES IN AREA; D) DIVIDING ARAB STATES FROM ONE ANOTHER; AND E) TRYING TO WEAKEN POSITION OF SOVIET UNION IN AREA. BUT NONE OF THESE AIMS WAS ACHIEVED SINCE THE MISSION WAS A FAILURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DETENTE, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LENING00731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0297, D750175-0593
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750539/aaaabjmk.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST'S REMARKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, UR, US, ZNANIYE SOCIETY, (SOLOV'YEV, MIKHAIL DMITRIYEVICH), (SOLOV'YEV, MIKHAIL DIMITRIYEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006